

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W

----- 104565

R 231712Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5836

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 16299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, AU, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO AUSTRIA -  
HUGH TRAVERS MORGAN

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT HUGH MORGAN (56) ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WILL BE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA/ HE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS POSITION AFTER THE FIRST OF THE NEW YEAR. AS ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, A POST HE HAS OCCUPIED FOR A LITTLE OVER A YEAR, MORGAN HAS SUPERVISED THE WESTERN, SOUTHERN EUROPEAN AND WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS (NATO) DEPARTMENTS OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

2. THE CASUAL OBSERVER MIGHT BE INCLINED TO SIZE UP MORGAN AS A STANDARD STUFFY BRITISH DIPLOMAT, FOR HE HAS A NATURAL RESERVE AND DIFFIDENCE WHICH CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF ALOOFNESS. WHILE HE COULD HARDLY BE DESCRIBED AS WARM, MORGAN COMES ACROSS ON BETTER ACQUAINTANCE AS A GENUINELY FRIENDLY PERSON WITH AN AGREEABLE WRY SENSE OF HUMOR. HE HAS A PRECISE, WELL-DISCIPLINED MIND AND SPEAKS DELIBERATELY AND ARTICULATELY, ALTHOUGH ONE OCCASIONALLY HAS DIFFICULTY IN HEARING HIM SINCE HE HAS A TRACE OF A LISP AND A TENDENCY TO LOWER HIS NORMALLY SOFT TONE OF SPEECH A KEY OR TWO. HE IS A PERSON OF VARIED INTERESTS; ALTHOUGH SOME WOULD SAY THEY ARE TRANSITORY, THEY ARE

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CERTAINLY INTENSE. AFTER HIS SERVICE IN PEKING AND

MORE RECENTLY AFTER HIS POSTING TO LIMA, HE BECAME A KEEN FANCIER OF CHINESE AND ANDEAN ART. MORGAN IS A DIPLOMAT IN THE TRADITIONAL MOLD. HE MUST UNDOUBTEDLY BE COUNTED AS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE U.S., BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CAST HIM A MILITANT PRO-AMERICAN AS ARE SOME OF HIS SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE COLLEAGUES. INTELLECTUALLY HE ACCEPTS THE DECLINE OF BRITISH POWER AND AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE TO BRITAIN OF CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S. ACROSS THE BOARD. WHEN MORGAN WAS HEAD OF THE WESTERL EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT IN THE LATE SIXTIES AND MORE RECELTY WHILE ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, THIS EMBASSY ENJOYED A MOST SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN RESPONSIVE AND CANDID (WITHIN LIMITS) ABOUT THE INFORMATION HE HAS GIVEN US. A PRISONER OF WAR IN GERMANY FOR MOST OF HIS MILITARY SERVICE, MORGAN HAS AN EXCELLENT COMMAND OF GERMAN (AS WELL AS FRENCH). SERVICE IN MOSCOW, BERLIN, AS HEAD OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT AND LATELY AS ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETAPY HAVE MADE HIM AS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE PROBLEMS OF CENTRAL EUROPE AS ANY SENIOR BRITISH DIPLOMAT. MRS. MORGAN (ALEXANDRA) IS A FASCINATING FOIL TO HER HUSBAND; HER SPARKLING, UNINHIBITED STYLE CONTRASTS VIVIDLY WITH MORGAN'S CLASSIC BRITISH RESERVE. THE DAUGHTER OF A SENIOR BULGARIAN DIPLOMAT OF THE OLD REGIME, SHE WAS EDUCATED IN SWITZERLAND. HER PENCHANT FOR PLAIN SPEAKING HAS UNDOUBTEDLY JOLTED BRITISH DIPLOMATIC WIVES, BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ADVERSELY

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 231712Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5837

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 16299

AFFECTED MORGAN'S CAREER. SHE IS LIVELY COMPANY AND IT IS ALWAYS A REFRESHING EXPERIENCE TO MEET HER ESPECIALLY AT DREARY DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS.

3. THE ENTRY FOR MORGAN IN HM DIPLOMATIC LIST READS AS FOLLOWS:

MORGAN, HUGH TRAVERS, CMG (1966); SINCE AUGUST 1974 ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY; BORN AUGUST 3, 1919; RAF 1939-45; FOREIGN OFFICE 1945; THIRD SECRETARY UNITED KINGDOM MISSION TO UNITED NATIONS 1946; SECOND SECRETARY MOSCOW 1948; FIRST SECRETARY FOREIGN OFFICE 1950; CANADIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE 1953; HEAD OF CHANCERY AND CONSUL MEXICO CITY 1954; FOREIGN OFFICE 1957; DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR TESTS DELEGATION GENEVA 1960; COUNSELLOR AND CONSUL-GENERAL PEKING 1961; POLITICAL ADVISER B.M.G. BERLIN 1964; HEAD OF WESTERN DEPARTMENT FOREIGN OFFICE 1967; HEAD OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT FCO 1968; H.M. AMBASSADOR LIMA MAY 1970-74. MAPRIED: (1) 1946 ANN KEENLYSIDE (DISSOLVED 1952); (2) 1959 ALEXANDRA BELINOFF (2 S. 1960, 1961; 1 D. 1964).

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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